

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Is there any other discussion on the motion to advance? Seeing none, Senator Withem waives closing. The question is the advancement of LB 874 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 874.

SENATOR HALL: LB 874 is advanced. The next item on the agenda, LB 609, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 609, Mr. President, introduced by Senator Hartnett and Lynch. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18, referred to the Government Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by Government, Military and Veterans Affairs.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Robinson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President and members of the body, as Senator Hartnett will explain, this bill deals with our statutes concerning aeronautics to define a new category of airports and to allow these airports to be eligible to receive funds from the aviation fuel tax. The committee amendments make two changes that meet some concerns of the Department of Aeronautics and the committee. The first change regards the term "public airport", as it appears in the bill. The term is changed to "privately owned public use airport" which more narrowly defines the airport that the bill is intended to affect. This change was requested by the introducer in response to concerns expressed by the Department of Aeronautics. The second change in the committee amendments is to add a provision which states that when an airport has received state funds, state grant funds, and ceases to be an airport or a privately owned airport, or excuse me, privately owned public use airport, the department shall seek to recover as much of the state funds as it can. This will, hopefully, serve as one method to help to ensure that the grant funds are distributed and used in as proper a method as possible. I would encourage the adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Wehrbein and Bernard-Stevens.